

Library

TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1965

MOIRA McQUAID, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (I) D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
INTRODUCTION.	1
STAFF AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.	2
SECTION A. STATISTICS.	3
SECTION B. HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.	5
SECTION C. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	7
SECTION D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.	8
SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.	12
SECTION F. HOUSING.	15
APPENDIX A. FACTORIES ACT. ADMINISTRATION.	16



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30193084>

TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the time with which this Report is concerned Dr. McQuaid was the Medical Officer of Health. Most of the Report was collected during that period.

I would like to thank Mr. Elliott, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for all he has contributed, and also Mr. Parker Pearson, the Engineer. To Miss Taylor, who collected and correlated the figures and text, I am most grateful.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Robert Walker.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Councillor J.D. Warren.
VICE CHAIRMAN: Councillor G. Gill.
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL: Councillor C. Bartlett, C.B.E., J.P.

together with
all members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Moira McQuaid, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (I) D.P.H.
Medical Department,
Municipal Offices,
Totnes.

Tel. Totnes 2335.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Miss W.J. Taylor.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F.B. Elliott, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Higher Plymouth Road,
Totnes.

Tel. Totnes 2242.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E.P.G. Bennett, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Higher Plymouth Road,
Totnes.

Tel. Totnes 2242.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Miss J. Boundy.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS

Area	80,970
River frontage of tidal waters	17 miles
Number of inhabited properties	6,498
Dwellings owned by the Council	610
Council dwellings per 1,000 population	39.0
Rateable value (1st April 1965)	£482,800
Estimated product of ld. rate	£1,900
Population - mid 1965 estimate	15,910
Population at 1961 census	14,968

Births

Live Births (117 males and 107 females)	224
Illegitimate births (6 males and 3 females)	9
Illegitimacy rate	4%
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	14.08
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population	17.88
Still births (1 male and 1 female)	2

Infant Mortality

Total infant deaths	4
Legitimate infant deaths	1
Illegitimate infant deaths	3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	4.65
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	333.33
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	17.92

Maternal Mortality (Including Abortion)

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

Deaths

Total deaths (126 males and 112 females)	238
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	14.96
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	8.39

<u>Classification of Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	12	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	27	42
Coronary disease, angina	33	12	45
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	10	16	26
Other circulatory disease	6	4	10
Pneumonia	13	20	33
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill defined diseases	10	6	16
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	3	2	5
Total	126	112	238

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

The Rural District is served by hospitals in Totnes, Dartmouth, Paignton, Newton Abbot, Ashburton, Torquay and Bittaford.

2. Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory services at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

3. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Unit visited main towns in the area once a fortnight throughout the year and all persons living in the rural parishes were easily able to obtain chest x-rays. A visit was made to Syon Abbey, South Brent, where a total of 36 persons were x-rayed, out of these 4 were found to have abnormalities of some sort. A survey group analysis of persons attending for x-ray at Totnes during 1965 is as follows:-

General practitioner referrals	138
Tuberculin positive reactors	42
Contacts to tuberculin positive reactors	17
Contacts	5
Students	4
Hospital staff	16
School staff	28
General public	361
Total	611

4. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders, and the aftercare of such persons.

Nine district nurse/midwives work in the district together with four health visitors and a nursing assistant. Child welfare clinics are held at regular intervals at South Brent, Stoke Gabriel and Kingswear.

The homehelp service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has now been introduced for the handicapped, the aged, and expectant mothers. Chiropody clinics are held in South Brent, Stoke Gabriel, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Totnes.

5. Family Planning Service

A clinic is held at the Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton, every first Monday of the month, 6.30 - 7.30 p.m.; every 2nd and 4th Monday, 2 - 3.30 p.m. A clinic is also held at the Adult Education Centre, Dartington, on the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of alternate months beginning in January of each year.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. Notifications received during the year were as follows:-

Measles	132
Acute primary pneumonia	1
Tuberculosis	5
Whooping Cough	3
Puerperal pyrexia	1

2. International Vaccination Certificates

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated during the year as follows:-

Smallpox	166
Cholera	21
Typhoid	4

These figures refer to the whole of No.10 Devon County Area, that is, Totnes Borough, Totnes Rural District, Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Urban Districts.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

Most properties in the rural district receive a water supply from the South West Devon Water Board mains.

DWELLINGS SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

Parish	1964-65 (Est.Pop.)	No. dwellings with piped water supply (direct)	No. dwellings relying on standpipes
Ashprington	327	72	Nil
Berry Pomeroy	366	48	Nil
Buckfastleigh W.	284	42	Nil
Churston Ferrers	2,174	610	1 (Private)
Cornworthy	292	40	Nil
Dartington	1,254	83	Nil
Dean Prior	305	13	Nil
Diptford	308	76	Nil
Dittisham	508	169	2
Halwell	219	56	3
Harberton			
Harberton Ward)	897	70	1
Harbertonford Ward)			
Holne	348	58	Nil
Kingswear	696	237	Nil
Littlehempston	203	35	Nil
Marldon	1,420	461	2
Morleigh	112	26	Nil
North Huish	355	68	Nil
Rattery	371	87	Nil
South Brent	1,803	469	Nil
Staverton	612	97	Nil
Stoke Gabriel	997	349	Nil
Ugborough	2,059	340	1

2. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The number of refuse tips under the direct control of the rural district has now been reduced to three, but arrangements have been made with the Borough of Totnes for the refuse from the parishes of Marlton, Stoke Gabriel, and Berry Pomeroy, to be disposed of at their refuse tip.

To maintain a weekly collection considerable overtime working was necessary, but it is hoped that when the integration of the Rural and the Borough services takes place next year a marked saving should occur.

3. Litter Act, 1958

The litter containers are emptied in conjunction with the normal village collection, but it has been found necessary to make additional collections on Saturday mornings from laybys on the busy roads.

4. Sewerage and sewage disposal

The following sewerage and sewage disposal schemes were prepared during 1965:-

Galampton Sewage Disposal Works

The preparation of a new sewage disposal works on the site of the existing works at Galampton Creek has been completed and work is expected to commence in 1966.

The works will provide treatment for the village of Galampton and parts of Churston Ferrers, and is to replace the existing treatment plant which is grossly overloaded.

Dean Prior Sewerage Scheme

A sewerage scheme was approved to serve approximately 36 properties in the hamlets of Higher and Lower Dean, at present without any sewerage system whatsoever. The effluent will gravitate to a pumping station, and from there it will be lifted into the head of the Buckfastleigh U.D.C.'s gravity system and will eventually receive treatment at Kilbury Sewage Disposal Works, sited on the banks of the River Dart near Austin's Bridge.

This scheme is expected to be in operation during the following summer.

5. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Action here is designed to be mainly preventative as opposed to curative. This is effected in large measure by routine visits to refuse tips, sewage works, and other vulnerable premises, and the annual treatment of sewers.

The Council shares the services of a Rodent Operator with two other Authorities.

6. Visits of Public Health Inspectors during 1965

Drainage and sewage disposal	282	Vermineous premises	7
Water supplies	53	Slaughterhouses	163
Building inspections	169	Knackers Yards	2
Infectious diseases	28	Offices, Shops and Railway	
Food premises	84	Premises Act	20
Housing and Public Health Acts	197	Refuse Collection & Disposal	237
Improvement Grants	330	Pest Control	27
Moveable dwellings	81	Rodent Control	30
Nuisances	41	Animal Boarding	
Petroleum Regulations	12	Establishments	11
Scrap metal dealers	25	Burial Acts	3
Factories and work shops	24	Miscellaneous	14

7. Caravans

<u>Address of Site</u>	<u>Type of Licence</u>	<u>No. of vans</u>
Bathill Camp, Greenway Rd., Galmpton, Churston.	Seasonal	30
Higher Greenway, Galmpton, Churston Ferrers.	Part residential Part holiday	1 R 3 H
Adjoining Blackness House, East Cornworthy.	Residential	1
Lower Cobberton, Dartington.	Holiday	1
The Orchard, Deancombe, Dean Prior.	Seasonal	1
Blue Post Filling Station, Harberton.	Tourist/transit	12
Leigh Bridge Cottage, Harberton.	Residential	1
The Caravan, Littlecombe, Holne.	Residential	1
Widdicombe Farm, Compton, Marlton.	Residential	1

<u>Address of Site</u>	<u>Type of Licence</u>	<u>No.of vans</u>
Smokey House Inn, Marlton.	Residential	4
Newhouse Farm, Morleigh.	Residential	1
Webland, Avonwick, South Brent.	Part Residential	4 R
	Part holiday	22 H
Bittaford Wood, Ugborough.	Residential	24
The Glen, Ludbrook, Ugborough.	Seasonal	1
Folly Cross, Wrangaton, Ugborough.	Touring	15
Marsh Park, Wrangaton, Ugborough.	Residential	2

Summary:

No. of residential vans	41
No. of holiday vans	26
No. of seasonal vans	32
No. of tourist vans	27

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Type of Shop	Total No.	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Hand washing facilities)	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applies (separate sinks)	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocery and general provisions	63	40	23	17
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1
Bread and confectionary	2	2	1	1
Butchers	8	8	3	3
Slaughterhouses	2	2	1	1
Fish	2	2	2	2
Licensed Houses	29	26	29	27
Hotels, Inns, Cafes	43	38	43	41
School canteens	3	3	3	3
Total	153	122	106	96

2. Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

During the year the undermentioned food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Beef	96 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Tinned fruit	65 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs
Lamb	40 lbs.	Tinned meat	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Pork	28 lbs.	Miscellaneous	18 lbs.
	<u>164$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.</u>		<u>120$\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.</u>

3. Meat Condemned in Slaughterhouses.

Beef	85 lbs.
Veal	-
Mutton & Lamb	40 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Pork	28 lbs.

No. of meat visits made - 178.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Beasts excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	147	-	4	696	328	-
<u>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticercosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	-	11	8	-
% of number inspected affected with disease	10.8%	-	-	1.7%	2.4%	-

	Beasts excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	-	-	-	-	.9%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION F.

HOUSING

1. Unfit Houses

During the year:-

5 Demolition Orders were made.

4 Closing Orders were cancelled after the properties had been brought up to the required standard for habitation.

2. Improvement Grants

<u>Discretionary Grants</u>	a) Properties approved for grant	20
	b) Total amount of grant	£6661.15.7.
	c) Average per dwelling	£333.17.9½.
	d) Grants paid during the year	32
	e) Total amount	£9929.13.6.
<u>Standard Grants</u>	a) Properties approved for grant	29
	b) Total maximum grant	£4255.10.8.
	c) Grants paid during the year	19
	d) Total amount	£2387.0.6.

APPENDIX A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1965 FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF TOTNES IN

THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the
Factories Act, 1961.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	13	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	9	9	-	-
Total	60	24	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	5	-	-	-

PART 8 OUTWORK. SECTIONS 133 AND 134

During 1965 there were two outworkers in the district.

Section 133

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Making wearing apparel	2	Nil	Nil
Total	2	Nil	Nil

Section 134

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Nil	Nil	Nil

